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PILGRIM TERCENTENARY

Observances at Plymouth
December 21, 1920
and the Summer of 1921



Issued by
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TERCENTENARY TOWN COMMITTEE
WM. S. KYLE, *Chairman*



Interior of Pilgrim Hall

Events

August, 1920 — Celebrations in Holland.

September, 1920 — Celebrations in England.

December 21, 1920 — Anniversary Exercises in Plymouth.

June, July, August, September, 1921.

Principal commemoration at Plymouth.

Elaborate pageantry and program to be announced.

Prior to the celebration in 1921 the historic spots in Plymouth are to be restored and the surroundings beautified in such a manner as to form a suitable permanent memorial to the Pilgrims.

Note — It should be remembered that while the three-hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims is in 1920, it falls in the winter — December 21 — and the general observances at Plymouth will take place the following summer, June–September, 1921.

See page 12 for bibliography of Pilgrim literature. Everyone should read this year Pilgrim legends and stories as well as history. Apply to your Public Library for any of the books mentioned.

Pilgrim Tercentenary

DECEMBER 21, 1920, will mark the three-hundredth anniversary of the landing at Plymouth of a brave, God-fearing company, passengers on a little ship — so small indeed that we wonder at her bringing the company in safety across the storm-swept Atlantic. Her name was not even mentioned in early accounts of the venture, but every boy and girl now knows of the *Mayflower* and of her troubled voyage.

That voyage and that landing seem most commonplace in themselves, but had that little company been other than it was, inspired by other ideals, sustained by a lesser faith, who can say what now might be the conditions under which we of America would be living three hundred years after the event?

Grown a million-fold in population, with increase of wealth and opportunity in like measure, our country today reflects on every hand the spirit of freedom, of religious and civil liberty, of unswerving justice, which was implanted at Plymouth three memorable centuries ago.

Humbly walked the little band of first settlers, only faintly aware of their great, God-given mission. But from that well-spring have gone out the "sweet waters" of courage, of patience, of industry, of progress, of faith and zeal which

**The Voyage
and the
Landing**

**The Spirit of
the Pilgrims**



Pilgrim Monument

inspired all later comers to go forth and conquer the wilderness, to cultivate the fertile prairies, to develop untold natural resources, to found great institutions of education and philanthropy — above all, to build up a national character which could pass through fiery trial to emerge the stronger, and at last to stand forth as the one firm, unshaken bulwark of human liberties throughout the world.

And, like as one who has gone out into the world and been absorbed in its struggle returns at some anniversary season to the ancestral home and finds in so doing one of life's greatest pleasures, so now may America well turn her steps on this tercentenary of its founding to the old home of her liberty-loving pioneer forbears. Many are bound to that Pilgrim company by ties of blood, but each and every one who names himself American is heir to the great heritage of religious and political liberty descended from early Plymouth and cherished now in every corner of our land.

Plans are already made for appropriate observances, both in Holland and in England, of the three-hundredth anniversary of the departure of the Pilgrims from Delft Haven and from Southampton and Plymouth.

On December 21, 1920, the anniversary of the landing, appropriate exercises will be held at Plymouth with addresses by nationally famous speakers. As this anniversary date falls at a time of year not fitted for an appropriate out-of-door celebration, the pop-

**The Anniversary,
December 21, 1920**

ularly planned features of the commemoration are fixed for the summer months of 1921.

In connection with these plans the Town of Plymouth and the State of Massachusetts have appropriated generous sums of money, and Congress has also appropriated a further sum. Much of the work of preparation is in the hands of a specially appointed State Commission.

The outdoor program will center about an elaborate display of pageantry. Beautiful pageants are now in process of preparation.

The Town of Plymouth has purchased a site and appropriated \$300,000 for building a fine memorial hall. It is proposed to devote a great deal of care to restoring old Pilgrim landmarks and to beautifying the shore line of Plymouth Harbor. It is hoped that these plans will be carried out in

**Appropriate
Treatment of
Old Pilgrim
Landmarks**



Birthplace of Governor Bradford



Scrooby Church

such a manner that the many visitors in 1921 may do reverence to the Pilgrims amid surroundings entirely fitted to form a permanent and inspiring memorial to those whose labors of three hundred years ago were our guarantee of national greatness today.

Particular attention will be given to the Rock and its immediate surroundings. Buildings and wharves near the Rock will be removed to give opportunity for restoring and beautifying the landing place. Cole's Hill, rising back of the Rock, will be changed and restored somewhat, to allow the proper preservation of the early graves of those who died that first winter.

Still farther back from the water is Burial Hill with its ancient graves, many of them with quaint and interesting epitaphs. Here improvements will



The "Mayflower" in Plymouth Harbor

be made and the slopes of the hill regraded to their original shape.

Much attention will be given also to the shores of old Town brook and the famous Pilgrim Meresteads.

While the old log houses of the settlers have disappeared, while the ancient fort long ago passed away, and the Indian neighbors of old have all passed on to the Happy Hunting Ground,

**Many Scenes Dear
to the Pilgrims May
Still Be Enjoyed**

it is interesting to know how many scenes familiar to the Pilgrims may yet be observed today. As we stand upon the eminence of Burial Hill we still have spread out before us a panorama very like that which the Pilgrim sentinel viewed from the watchtower.

We may still look down old Leyden Street—the first street—named by the Pilgrims in memory of their place of sojourn in Holland. We

can map out in imagination the location of the early Pilgrim homes. There is the site of the first house — “Ye first house for comone use to receive them and their goods.”

Near the head of the street was the house of Governor William Bradford, and opposite was Elder Brewster's home with its famous spring, whose waters the Pilgrim of today may still drink as did the fathers of 1620. From the hill also you may still look across the blue waters of Massachusetts Bay, over which came the Pilgrim ship. On a clear day may be seen the monument at Provincetown on the tip of Cape Cod, twenty-five miles away, where the *Mayflower* first anchored.

Nearer at hand the Gurnet headland guards the entrance to Plymouth's outer harbor, then the white sands of Saquish and Plymouth beach. Clark's Island shows its mound of green grass and trees, and across the harbor looms Captain's



Myles Standish's Famous Sword, His Kettle and Platter

Hill, in Duxbury, the later home of Captain Myles Standish. The imposing monument to that hero crowns the height.

To the south is Town brook, on its opposite side Watson's Hill. Here came Samoset, providentially sent to welcome the settlers in their own native tongue. Soon he brought to them Massasoit, sachem of the Wampanoags, with whom was made a treaty of peace held inviolate for half a century. Later came to live with the Pilgrims, Squanto and Hobomok, "friend of the white man."

Wherever one may look from this hilltop he may see those spots dear to the Pilgrims' hearts

**The Charms of
New England
— Natural and
Historical**

and associated with their early struggle. Wherever one may go, not only in the "Plimouth Plantation" and its neighboring "Massachusetts Bay," but all over New England, he will find reminders of



Leyden Street



Plymouth Courthouse, and at Right, Registry of Deeds Containing Many Old Records

the old Colonial days. He will hear legend and story of the good old times ; he will confuse his tongue with the old Indian names still borne by many a lake and stream and mountain ; he will find a new inspiration and an unexpected pleasure in this Pilgrim Country.

So the lover of the Pilgrims and every true American who cherishes a spark of reverence for the ideals of our early settlers who visit the Old Colony in 1921 will have a glorious opportunity to experience the delights of summer on the New England coast, and to gain refreshment in body and in spirit.

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Town Square

The Pilgrim Tercentenary



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